**Now is the time to provide your plot data if you want it to make a difference!**

Dear Colleague,                                                                                                        Fall 2014

Do you manage or coordinate vegetation or landscape data sets such as field plot/transect data or disturbance/treatment polygons?  If so, the LANDFIRE Program needs your data.  LANDFIRE is an interagency vegetation, fire, and fuel characteristics mapping program, sponsored by the United States Departments of Agriculture, Forest Service and the Interior (DOI) (www.landfire.gov).  LANDFIRE data have served as an important data set for programmatic planning, analysis, and reporting for fire and natural resource management.

**January 31, 2015 is a critical date.**  *Why?*  LANDFIRE will be remapping data products with new imagery (Landsat 8) and new plot data to reflect contemporary conditions and January 31, 2015 is the cutoff date to provide plot data for this remap. The remap will begin in 2016, so in order to be prepared, plot data need to be submitted so data and databases can be processed and organized.  *Now is the time to get your plot data in* LANDFIRE, so geospatial landscape data are as reflective of on the ground conditions as possible. The addition of these plot data have a great potential to improve the quality of the data products especially in areas where lower/limited plot data were available for LF National (circa 2001). For more information on areas that had lower/limited plot data visit: http://www.landfire.gov/participate_plot.php.  Locally provided data impact LANDFIRE products and evidence is available for review at http://www.landfire.gov/lf_impacts.php. Even with a 2016 start, these remapped products will not be available to the user community until 2019 and based on current organization, technology, funding, and plans it may be another 10 years or more before the next remap.

*Will LANDFIRE continue to do updates as in previous years?* The LANDFIRE program plans to do parallel production work in order to meet user community needs by producing updates (LF 2014, LF 2016, etc.) while working on the LF 2015 remap.  If you had any wildfires, weather events, or if you conducted any harvest, chemical or other silvicultural treatments in 2013 or 2014, LANDFIRE also needs this data.  January 31, 2015 is the cutoff date to provide disturbance and treatment data for the LF2014 update.

**LANDFIRE Data Needs:**
**Polygon Disturbance and Treatment Activities from 2013/2014:**
LANDFIRE uses recent disturbance and treatment data to update map layers in areas where vegetation and fuel have changed. At a minimum, the disturbance/treatment polygons must be attributed by disturbance/treatment (Event) type and year of occurrence. For more information visit http://www.landfire.gov/participate_contribute.php where examples of these data and relevant attributes can be found.  These data will be used in the LF 2014 update.

**Vegetation and Fuel Plot Data:**
In preparation for the upcoming remap, LANDFIRE needs contributions of any geo-referenced point, transect, or polygon vegetation or fuel plot data along with any associated digital photos, project descriptions, or final reports. For more information on LANDFIRE's plot data needs visit http://www.landfire.gov/participate_plot.php where examples of the types of vegetation and fuels data needed can be found. These data will be used in the LF 2015 remap.

In addition, LANDFIRE also welcomes feedback on current data products, for more information visit http://www.landfire.gov/participate_feedback.php

**Data Submissions, Contributions, and Thanks:**
LANDFIRE collects and welcomes data submissions on an annual basis throughout the year.  *The data submission deadline has been changed to **January 31** of each year*.  Data submitted before January 31 will be evaluated for incorporation into the next scheduled LANDFIRE update cycle. Data submitted after January 31 will be evaluated for subsequent LANDFIRE updates or remaps. For more information visit http://www.landfire.gov/participate_refdata.php or contact Brenda Lundberg, LANDFIRE Reference Data Administrator, blundberg@usgs.gov, (406) 329-3405.

LANDFIRE also acquires data from websites and agency data base systems. For a list of these sources see the "Website Agency DB" spreadsheet at http://www.landfire.gov/participate_refdata_sub.php.  For a list of past data contributions see the "Compiled Data" spreadsheet at http://www.landfire.gov/participate_refdata_sub.php.

LANDFIRE thanks those who have contributed data in the past and is again asking for your help to enhance and improve LANDFIRE products through your data or information contributions.